

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-2008-01
CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR MICHIGAN STATE PARKS**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A LEGISLATIVE BILL PROVIDING FREE ENTRY AND
CAMPING TO DISABLED VETERANS AND P.O.W.'S**

ADOPTED: March 26, 2008

WHEREAS, Public Act 392 of 2004, which created the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks (CCMSP), stipulated that the committee should advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Natural Resources Commission, the Legislature and the DNR on state parks policy, and provide guidance on state park development, management and planning issues; and

WHEREAS, legislation (House Bill 5189) has been introduced that would offer free park entry and free camping to all veterans classified as 100% disabled, those classified as unemployable disabled veterans, as well as resident Prisoners of War; and

WHEREAS, the CCMSP wishes to join legislators and the citizens of the State of Michigan in showing support and gratitude to those who have suffered the most in defense of our country and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the funding for state park and recreation area operations receives no general tax funds and relies almost exclusively on user fees derived from the collection of camping fees and motor vehicle permits; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Parks are willing to accept the administrative costs involved with eligibility verification and system modifications in order to accommodate the proposed free uses; however, the direct loss of entry and camping revenues would erode the ability for park staff to provide high quality services to all visitors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCMSP supports free entry and camping to those classified as 100% disabled veterans, unemployable disabled veterans and resident Prisoners of War; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCMSP recommends that the Legislature amend the language of the bill such that the lost user revenues resulting from this free entry and camping be returned to the Park Improvement Fund from the state General Fund, which will show respect to 100% disabled veterans, unemployable disabled veterans, resident Prisoners of War and to all Michigan State Park visitors, and continue the ability of Michigan State Parks to provide high quality services to all.

Submitted by: Ron Olson, Chief, DNR Parks and Recreation Division

MOTIONED BY: Tom Ferguson
SUPPORTED BY: Mike McDonald

YEAS: 12
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 3
ABSTAINED: 1

**This Resolution was adopted by the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks on
March 26, 2008.**